

***Liparis loeselii* (L.) L.C.Rich**

bog twayblade

Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Plant with two large basal leaves with parallel venation; flower stalk 3-8 inches tall; flowers white to yellowish-green; sepals 3/16 to 5/16 inch, 3-nerved; petals 1-nerved, 3/16 to 1/4 inch; lip 3/16 to 1/4 inch, oblong-oval, abruptly acute and with a narrow base, curved downward, 5-7 veined. The use of a technical key is recommended for positive identification.

Identification Tips: This is the only *Liparis* which occurs in WA. The other genera which are at least superficially similar include *Listera* and *Platanthera*. The former all have leaves that are borne near midlength of the stem, rather than essentially at the base. The latter have a spur on the lowermost petal (the lip).

Phenology: This species is identifiable in June.

Range: Nova Scotia to Alabama, very sporadically to Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Iowa. Also occurs in Europe. Disjunct in WA, occurring in the Eastern Cascades and Puget Trough physiographic provinces.

Habitat: The species occurs around springs, in bogs, and wet sunny places within Douglas fir dominated forests in WA. Associated species include red alder (*Alnus rubra*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), hardhack (*Spirea douglasii*), adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), skunk cabbage (*Lysichitum americanum*), mountain alder (*Alnus incana*), bog willow (*Salix pedicellaris*), mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), slender sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*), roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), common buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), swamp laurel (*Kalmia occidentalis*), trailing St. John's wort (*Hypericum anagalloides*), marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), and Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*).

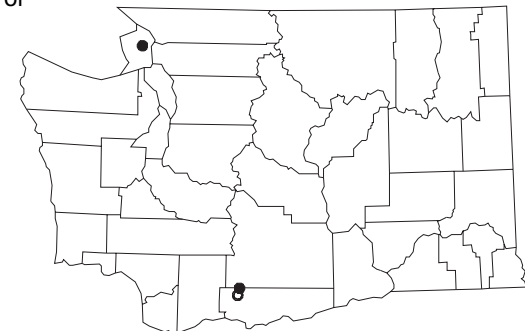
Liparis loeselii

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Known distribution of
Liparis loeselii
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Liparis loeselii

bog twayblade



Reid Schuller



Linda Kunze

Liparis loeselii

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Ecology: Both known occurrences in WA are wetlands. The species is presumably dependent upon maintenance of the hydrologic regime of these sites. The population in San Juan County occurs in a very diverse wetland complex, but the species is restricted to the sedge dominated sphagnum bog portion.

State Status Comments: The species occurs as a disjunct in WA, with one occurrence each in Klickitat and San Juan counties, WA. Its status is due largely to this low number of known populations and the lack of protection it receives.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory of wetlands, particularly bog and fen habitats, throughout WA is needed.

Threats and Management Concerns: The primary threats for this species in WA are changes in the hydrologic regime, live-stock grazing, and recreational activities.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.

Luer, C.A. 1975. *The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida*. New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY. 361 pp.